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For Immediate Release July 18, 2016 Katrina Maksimuk, 805/658-4775 Richard Newsham, 805/658-4706

California HDC awards \$230,800 to Ventura to construct Kellogg Park

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (CHDC), through its Housing Related Parks (HRP) Program, is awarding the City of Ventura a \$230,800 grant towards the construction of Kellogg Park, located on Ventura Avenue at Kellogg Street.

HRP is an innovative California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) program designed to reward local governments with grant funds to create or rehabilitate parks in cities that approve housing for lower-income households and are in compliance with State housing element laws.

"We are dedicated to a working partnership with the City of Ventura to address the Westside's critical housing and community development needs," said HDC Deputy HCD Director Ben Metcalf. "The HRP grant to Ventura is made in to reinforce the importance of linkages between housing, jobs and the economy in creating vital, livable communities."

Last week Westside community members attended the Design Review Committee at City Hall to show strong support of Kellogg Park and its design which will bring a playful nature theme to the city's newest park located in densely populated neighborhoods.

The park design calls for two new playground areas – one for 2-5 year olds and another for 6-12 year olds. Other amenities will include outdoor fitness equipment, bike racks, a 0.25-mile walking path with mile markers, a stormwater amphitheater, a drought tolerant, grassy play area/open space and 1.75 acres of native plantings.

The HRP grant brings the total raised so far for Kellogg Park to \$2.2 million. To complete the park \$4.3 million is needed and a fundraising campaign is currently underway with donations accepted at www.cityofventura.net/KelloggPark. Construction is expected to begin in early fall of 2016 with an anticipated completion date of December 2017.

For more about the CHDC donation or Kellogg Park contact City of Ventura Management Analyst Katrina Maksimuk at 805/658-4775 or kmaksimuk@cityofventura.net.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website www.cityofventura.net. --###--